

Legislative News



December 11, 2009

Higher Education Legislation Filed This Week

HB 1354 [Cunningham \(R-Rogersville\)](#) Allows members of the reserves of any branch of the United States armed forces to be eligible for a National Guard educational assistance grant.



Large sections of floor tiles are missing.

Report Describes Deteriorating Conditions on College Campuses

The Coordinating Board for Higher Education has accepted a report on the facilities at Missouri's public colleges and universities. The report details severe shortcomings in capacity, quality, and condition.

Staff of the Missouri Department of Higher Education conducted facility reviews at each of the state's 13 four-year and 21 two-year campuses last summer. The report includes descriptions of each campus' most serious facility challenges and their capital priorities.

Zora Mulligan, MDHE assistant commissioner, led the review and saw firsthand the deteriorating state of many higher education facilities. The problems generally fall into three categories, Mulligan says: quantity and quality of space, poor conditions of science facilities, and a backlog of maintenance and repairs.

"Missouri campuses have tremendous curb appeal. They are well-kept, clean and attractive. But our facilities review looked behind the scenes," Mulligan says. "We checked out boiler rooms, roofs and storage areas, as well as public spaces like classrooms and auditoriums. We found schools coping with outdated laboratories, buildings that have exceeded their useful life span, and a host of maintenance issues that have led to major problems."

The report cites dramatically increased student enrollments as one reason for



Science lab cabinetry is falling apart.

capacity issues, as well as changing career trends and the challenges of off-site and online instruction. Nearly every institution is "at capacity" in nursing and/or allied health programs, for example, and even distance learning courses demand space on campus to deliver the programs. As enrollment expands and new teachers are hired to meet demand, some campuses have converted closets and storage areas to accommodate them.

The report notes that some college laboratories date from the 1960s. While many have been slightly renovated, a few 40- to 50-year-old labs remain. Many that have undergone renovation still do not meet current technology requirements. Many do not provide the flexible configurations for updated learning styles such as hands-on research and collaborative learning.

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College Campus Report, *continued*



Cement stairs leading to a historic building are deteriorating.

“Unfortunately, deferring needed maintenance can result in even more expensive repairs in the future.”

-Paul Wagner
Deputy Commissioner
MDHE

“A statewide strategic goal is to educate more students in math, science, technology and engineering,” says Mulligan, “This requires equipment and facilities that have kept pace with industry. Many institutions have been able to upgrade through fund-raising campaigns or industry partnerships, but the sad fact is that some students find their college labs fall short of expectations.”

The report says, “Every public college and university in the state has a substantial backlog of deferred maintenance -- projects that have been put off because funds are not available to complete them.”

Higher education industry standards recommend that colleges spend about 1.5 percent of the total replacement value of their physical plant on maintenance and repair each year, according to Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education Paul Wagner. “Many colleges have not been able to maintain this level of spending. They’ve had to defer maintenance in order to preserve resources for the classroom as enrollments and other cost pressures have gone up,”

Wagner says. “Unfortunately, deferring needed maintenance can result in even more expensive repairs in the future.”

The facility review found pervasive problems such as cracked and peeling paint, water-damaged ceilings and walls, buckling floor tiles, aging plumbing and electrical systems, elevators that no longer meet code and inefficient heating and cooling systems. Safety issues such as overloaded electrical systems, aging boilers and compromised brick facades surfaced in some cases.

Commissioner of Higher Education Robert Stein says the report provides a wealth of information that can be used as a baseline for regular reviews in the future. “The report provides concrete examples for decision-makers about conditions found on college campuses and will serve as a foundation to inform public policy as the Department of Higher Education reviews capital priority guidelines.”

The full report, including facility descriptions and priorities for each campus, is available on the MDHE Web site, www.mdhe.mo.gov.

President Pro Tem to Host Senate Seminars

In January, President Pro Tem of the Senate, Charlie Shields, will host seminars on various topics including higher education and the activity of [Senate 2020 committees](#).

Thursday January 7, 2010

Presentations and discussion on current and future actions of the Senate 2020 Committees.

Expected Speakers:

[Sen. David Pearce \(R-Warrensburg\)](#)
[Sen. Tom Dempsey \(R-St. Peters\)](#)
[Sen. Eric Schmitt \(R-Glendale\)](#)

Thursday, January 14, 2010

Presentations and discussions concerning higher education and current and future actions of the P-20 Council.

Expected Speaker:

Dr. Robert Stein,
Commissioner of Higher Education

Senate Appropriations Hears Testimony on Higher Education



Missouri State Museum inside the Missouri State Capitol building.

The [Senate Appropriations Committee](#) heard public testimony about the state's budget on Monday of this week. Committee members heard from members of the public on a range of issues, including higher education. A representative of the Missouri Alumni Alliance, a group of alumni of University of Missouri system schools, testified about the value of public higher education in terms of teaching, research, and economic development. He advocated for better funding of public higher education. Representa-

tives of the [Missouri Community Colleges Association](#) (MCCA) also spoke to the committee. They focused on the role of community colleges in providing a highly trained, adaptable workforce, as well as on the tremendous increases in enrollment that most community colleges across the state are experiencing.

Legislators responded with several questions. They acknowledged the value of higher education, but indicated that money will be cut from valuable programs

because of declining state revenues. One legislator asked several questions about the University of Missouri's Extension program, which is represented by the Missouri Alumni Alliance. Other legislators asked the MCCA representatives several questions about the Preparing to Care Initiative, whether the enrollment increases at community colleges are just "filling empty seats" in classrooms or are creating additional expenses, and whether tuition will increase next year.

Membership on Senate Appropriations, Education Committees

In the Senate, membership on the Appropriations and Education Committees has been finalized. A list of the members is below. House membership on the Budget and Higher Education Committees has not yet been announced for this session. Last session, these house committees were finalized in January.

Appropriations



[Rob Mayer](#)
(R-Dexter),
Chairman



[Kurt Schaefer](#)
(R-Columbia),
Vice Chairman



[Tom Dempsey](#)
(R-St. Peters)



[Jim Lembke](#)
(R-St. Louis)



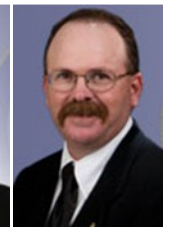
[David Pearce](#)
(R-Warrensburg)



[Chuck Purgason](#)
(R-Caulfield)



[Scott Rupp](#)
(R-Wentzville)



[Frank Barnitz](#)
(D-Lake Spring)



[Joan Bray](#)
(D-University City)



[Tim Green](#)
(D-St. Louis)



[Yvonne Wilson](#)
(D-Kansas City)

Education

[David Pearce](#) (R-Warrensburg),
Chairman

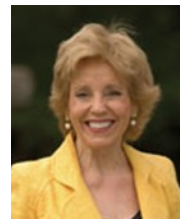
[Scott Rupp](#) (R-Wentzville),
Vice-Chairman

[Rob Mayer](#) (R-Dexter)

[Kurt Schaefer](#) (R-Columbia)

[Frank Barnitz](#) (D-Lake Spring)

[Yvonne Wilson](#) (D-Kansas City)



[Norma Champion](#)
(R-Springfield)



[Gary Nodler](#)
(R-Joplin)



[Rita Heard Days](#)
(D-St. Louis)

(pictured above & left)